

D2  
cont

13. (Amended) A liquid crystal layer as in claim 28, wherein said aligning layer is an aluminum coating with an optical density of more than 2.0.

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15. (Amended) An aligning layer for a liquid crystal film or layer which provides homeotropic alignment, said aligning layer comprising a smooth  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  layer.

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16. (Amended) An aligning layer as in claim 15 which comprises a thin transparent  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  coating.

17. (Amended) An aligning layer as in claim 29, which comprises an aluminum layer with an optical density of from 1.0 to 2.0.

18. (Amended) An aligning layer as in claim 29, which comprises an aluminum coating with an optical density of more than 2.0.

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✓ ✓  
Please cancel claims 14 and 19.

✓  
Please add the following claims:

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20. Liquid Crystal film or layer with homeotropic alignment  
wherein said homeotropic alignment is achieved by an aligning layer on a substrate,  
wherein said aligning layer is an aluminum coating or a smooth  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  layer,  
and wherein the substrate is comprised of plastic.

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21. Liquid Crystal film or layer with homeotropic alignment,  
wherein said homeotropic alignment is achieved by an aligning layer on a substrate,  
and wherein said aligning layer is an aluminum coating.

22. An aligning layer for a liquid crystal film or layer which provides homeotropic alignment, said aligning layer comprising an aluminum coating.

23. Liquid crystal film or layer according to claim 21 characterized in that the substrate is a polymeric material.

24. Liquid crystal film or layer according to claim 21, characterized in that the substrate is a plastic sheet or film.

25. Liquid crystal film or layer according to claim 21, characterized in that the substrate prior to its coating with the alignment layer or its precursor is subjected to a corona discharge.

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Cont 26. Process of fabricating a homeotropically oriented liquid crystal film or layer according to claim 21 which comprises applying an aligning layer as defined in claim 21 on a substrate.

27. Electrooptical system characterized in that it contains a liquid crystal film or layer according to claim 21.

28. A liquid crystal layer as in claim 21, wherein said aligning layer is an aluminum coating of medium optical density or an aluminum coating of high optical density.

29. An aligning layer as in claim 22 which comprises an aluminum coating of medium optical density or an aluminum coating of high optical density.

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#### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-4 and 9-19 were rejected in the Office Action mailed August 8, 2001. Claims 1 and 15 have been amended by this Reply, claims 20-29 have been added and no claims have been canceled. Claims 1-4 and 9-29 are currently pending in this application.